



STATE SENATOR
BRUCE PATTERSON
IN THE LOOP ★

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Belleville Bridge Walk A Success – Again!

The skies were threatening but nothing could keep the enthusiastic crowd from crossing the bridge. Senator Patterson said that he was impressed with the new park at Doane's Landing and looks forward to enjoying the scenic view that the new park offers.

"Downtown Belleville is a great place for families and has a tremendous amount to offer."



Senator Bruce Patterson (R-Canton Twp.) along with his wife, Phyllis, and the Hon. Brian Oakley, 34th District Judge, Chesley Odom, Sen. Loren Bennett, and Belleville Mayor Thomas Fielder (l to r) show off the certificates they received for walking in the 11th Annual Belleville Bridge Walk.



Plymouth Township Clerk Marilyn Massengill, Senator Patterson, and Supervisor Richard Reaume celebrate the groundbreaking of the township's new water tower.

Plymouth Township Readies For A New Water Tower

With the sale of 1.18 acres from the site of the Western Wayne Correctional Facility to Plymouth Township for \$1, the township can now begin construction on a new tower that will improve water flow to homes and businesses in the western reaches of the township's water system, said State Sen. Bruce Patterson. The new tower also will improve fire safety and allow the township to purchase water at off-peak times, reducing charges to residents.

Reaume praised Patterson for his work to pass legislation allowing the sale of the land. The property includes the highest point of land in Plymouth Township, ideal for the tower. The site is near 5 Mile Road and Beck.

“It’s a win-win all around,” said Patterson, 7th District. “Local businesses and industry benefit. Residents benefit. The new water tower will help maintain steady water pressure for better service and, ultimately, cost-savings. And the state is relieved of some property it no longer needs.”

On August 25, Patterson, Supervisor Reaume, and Clerk Marilyn Massengill celebrated a groundbreaking for the new tower. The tower should be in service by late 2007.

Legislature approves citizens’ initiative, repealing ‘job-killing’ Single Business Tax

In an historic vote, both houses of the Michigan Legislature have voted to repeal the state’s Single Business Tax, a burdensome tax that has been widely despised for much of the last 30 years both by Michigan business owners and legislators but until now has been immune to repeal due to the governor’s veto pen. The repeal takes effect Dec. 31, 2007.

A citizens’ petition initiative calling for the repeal of the SBT was delivered to the Legislature on July 28. The petition drive began after the governor’s March veto of a bill eliminating the SBT, her latest in a series of vetoes blocking fundamental and necessary change to the SBT. Since today’s repeal was an approval of a citizens’ initiative, the governor cannot veto it.

“Through the efforts of many hardworking Michiganders, the SBT was repealed today,” said Sen. Bruce Patterson, 7th District. “Over 372,000 signatures of concerned citizens were gathered to show the Legislature the importance of this issue to the state and our economy. Two out of every three jobs are created by small businesses. This repeal will help them create more jobs and keep existing jobs in Michigan. This is a win-win-win for small businesses, Michigan workers and Michigan families.”

The broadly derided SBT is an antiquated tax that was implemented in the 1970s, when Michigan’s commerce and economic activity were dramatically different than they are today. The tax was not designed for economic growth or for today’s new economy in Michigan and the nation. The SBT penalizes companies for hiring workers and providing them with benefits, which is why it has been coined the “job-killer” tax. Through previous legislation, the elimination of the SBT was scheduled for Dec. 31, 2009.

For the past 30 years the Legislature has tried to fix the SBT so it no longer penalizes job creation.

In May, a bipartisan joint committee was created by Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema and Speaker of the House Craig DeRoche to review proposals for replacement of the SBT and present a solution to the Legislature.

Enjoy Your Labor Weekend!

Here's to a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. If you haven't made your plans yet, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/som/0,1607,7-192-29907---,00.html> for some ideas.

And while most of the road construction will be suspended this weekend to make traveling easier, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,1607,7-151--150274--,00.html> to find out what spots will still be under construction.

September Is National Preparedness Month

(From the Department of Homeland Security)

Homeland Security and Coalition of More Than 1,150 Launch National Preparedness Month 2006

Hundreds of Events and Activities across the Country Promote Emergency Preparedness
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced today that more than 1,150 national, regional, state and local organizations have joined the department to take part in National Preparedness Month. This nationwide effort encourages Americans to prepare for emergencies of all kinds in their homes, businesses, schools and communities. This year, the department is putting a particular focus on family emergency preparedness, reminding individuals to make themselves and their loved ones better prepared.

"This fall, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Preparedness Month Coalition are urging Americans to take a few basic steps to ensure that their families are prepared before emergencies happen," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Through events and activities across the country, every American will be reminded of the personal responsibility they have to keep their family safe if the unexpected occurs."

More than 1,150 public and private sector organizations representing every state in the nation are promoting emergency preparedness through hundreds of events and activities in communities across the country. National organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, The Council of Better Business Bureaus, National Volunteer Fire Council, and Home Depot, ASPCA and the American Red Cross and many smaller regional, state and local groups are taking part in this important effort. Throughout September, DHS and coalition members are highlighting the importance of individual emergency preparedness and encouraging Americans to get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan and be informed about the different types of emergencies that may affect them.

The goal of National Preparedness Month is to educate Americans about the importance of emergency preparedness and encourage individuals to take action. Throughout the year, DHS promotes individual emergency preparedness through the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps as part of a broader national effort conducted by the department's Directorate for Preparedness.

For more information about the National Preparedness Month events taking place across the nation see the National Preparedness Month calendar at www.ready.gov or contact your local Citizen Corps Council by visiting www.citizencorps.gov .

Upcoming Office Hours

All Office Hours Run From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12th
Plymouth Library
223 S. Main Street
Plymouth

Monday, September 25th
Flat Rock Library
25200 Gibraltar Rd
Flat Rock

Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via e-mail, please contact my office at senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you!

See the *Legislative Questionnaire* on the Website, too! Your responses are welcomed!

Visit www.senate.michigan.gov/patterson

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